



**Mayoral Visit:** Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard and WSD’s Library Libby are pictured here with elementary and middle school students.

# Vancouver Mayor Shares Adventures of Lewis & Clark with Students

Library Libby recently surprised students with guest reader, Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard. Mayor Pollard read about the adventures and lives of Lewis & Clark.

The mayor distributed books to each of the students as part of the donation program First Book. Students were so impressed by his story telling that they asked him to autograph their books before he left.

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## Washington School for the Deaf

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Summer  
2004

# Washington School for the Deaf

*Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing children throughout the State of Washington*

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## CALENDAR

September 6  
Registration Day

September 7  
First Day of School

## Retiring Teachers Leave Legacy of Love

For many, Donna Power, Despo Varkados, Pat Almer, and Mike Boyd are considered the heart and soul of WSD.

They will retire at the end of this school year with a combined 134 years of teaching and leadership experience, almost all at WSD. They take with them a lifetime of memories and the knowledge that they have helped shape the lives of students throughout the state of Washington.

During the past 35 years at WSD, **Donna Power** has chaperoned 27 proms, taught every grade level and worked as administrator supervising the elementary, middle and high school programs.

“The staff and students at WSD have become family,” explained Power. “I will miss the everyday interaction with staff — the good mornings, you did a great job, can you help me with this, and the funny comments that only students can make.”

Her immediate plans are to spend more time with her family and to travel to exotic locations such as Thailand, Bali and Kathmandu.

**Despo Varkados** not only retires from WSD as the longest employee, but also the longest working state employee in Washington.

Over the past 47 years, she has worked for eight superintendents, witnessed the old high school and Watson Hall being demolished including the fight for the cupola at the top of the building, attending the 100 year celebration of the school, the dedication of the cottages and establishment of the statewide outreach program. In addition to teaching, she has worked in community relations, outreach and as a school principal.

Varkados recalls good as well as challenging times. “There were years when we all had to work together to keep the school open,” described Varkados.

Varkados has no plans to slow down in retirement. “You can count on seeing me at graduation every year,” she stated.



**Moms to Many:** Pat Almer, Despo Varkados and Donna Power (left to right) will retire this year.

After 39 years of teaching, **Pat Almer** still wears a smile on her face that lights up the halls of WSD.

“Teaching students to read was very exciting to me. I loved to see the excitement on students faces when they figured out they could read,” stated Almer. “Working here has been the best years of my life.”

She has taught at all grade levels, supervised the middle school, worked as the school-to-work coordinator, and most recently established the Independent Living Skills Program (ILS).



She looks forward to traveling throughout the United States in her fifth wheel with her husband, fishing in their boat, working in her garden, and finally learning how to make a quilt.

After 12 years of teaching at the middle and high school at WSD, **Mike Boyd** has decided to spend more time on the golf course and traveling to Germany with his wife and former WSD teacher Barbara.



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The WSD Board of Trustees meets monthly on campus. The public is invited to attend and provide community input. Please contact the school at (800) 613-4228 for meeting times and dates.

Story Telling  
Showcase builds  
language skills

Using a combination of story telling and technology, WSD students grades K-12 showcased their work from Dramatic Readers’ Theater last week. The event combined new technology that the school received from the Beaumont Grant and live presentations telling original stories.

“Students created actual or fictional stories and communicated them through ASL. Stories were based on a content concept including math, history, science, and language arts,” explained teacher Piper Gallucci. “Students were required to write the text to their story in English and then create a multimedia project using the new laptops, projectors and cameras.”

Gallucci added “Many students arrive at WSD with limited signed, spoken and written communication skills. The goal of this project is to improve skills in all areas of receptive and expressive communication including American Sign Language (ASL), reading and written English.”



**Story Time:** Kindergartner Allison Dunaway (left) and classmates Hayden Orr, Seth Reeves and Noah Tufton (left to right) from Kerianne Sitzabee’s class share an original story combining ASL and a multimedia presntation that they created.

Science students travels to east coast

Six students in Shannon Graham’s science class traveled to the east coast to complete a water quality study of the Long Island Sound with students/science teachers from American School for the Deaf’s (ASD’s) Classroom of the Sea program.

Students worked closely with a professor from the University of Connecticut and conducted various marine research studies. They used bottles to collect water samples from various depths to measure salinity and temperature. They also counted harbor seals and did a few water turbidity lab activities.



The K20 video conferencing system was used to provide pre-lab activities prior to their trip. Students also used IM and Quick time to communicate with the students and teachers.

**Sea Discovery:** WSD junior Wayne Hansen (right) helps an ASD student complete the process of salinity titration. Using water samples at different depths in the Long Island Sound they were able to find out how much salt is present.

Congratulations Class of 2004



**Class of 2004:** (back row) Stephen Loomis, Michelle Graf, Marleena Turner, Leah McQuaid, Keri Morris, Darby York, Jessica Burr, (front row) Eric Crossen, Craig Joseph, Hubert Mackey, Liki Tiatia, Federico DeLeon, Jr., Casey Patrick, Christopher Johnson, and Perseus McDaniel. Not pictured: Amanda Blackburn.

Class of 2004	Hometown	Class of 2004	Hometown
Amanda Blackburn	Bothell	Hubert Mackey	Ridgefield
Jessica Burr	Auburn	Perseus McDaniel	Seattle
Eric Crossen	Sedro-Woolley	Leah McQuaid	Silver Lake
Federico DeLeon, Jr.	Moses Lake	Keri Morris	Kelso
Michelle Graf	Anacortes	Casey Patrick	Richland
Christopher Johnson	Blaine	Liki Tiatia	Seattle
Craig Joseph	Spokane	Marleena Turner	Olympia
Stephen Loomis	Kent	Darby York	Seattle

**Class Motto:**  
Do not follow where the path may lead; Go instead where there is no path, And leave a trail.

Scholarship Awards:			
Merlino Scholarship	Perseus McDaniel	WSDAA Award	Marleena Turner
Telephone Pioneers	Hubert Mackey	PSO Award	Keri Morris Perseus McDaniel
McGuire Scholarship	Craig Joseph, Hubert Mackey	Gallaudet President’s Scholarship	Craig Joseph
WSD Scholarship	Marleena Turner		

Parent  
Safety Tip

How can you reduce crime where you live and keep your children safe?

- Report rumors and threats.**
- If you hear someone threaten violence, or hear a rumor that a crime will be committed, report the information to the principal, counselor, or police.

- Do your part to keep drugs out of the community.**
- Don’t use alcohol or other drugs.
  - Don’t hang around with people who use drugs or alcohol.
  - Tell younger kids about the dangers of drug and alcohol use.

- Work with groups to fight crime.**
- Get to know people who work to reduce crime
  - Start a crime prevention group.
  - Speak out against stereotypes or hateful language
  - Help organize activities that promote awareness of different races and cultures